

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 22 and 25 were previously canceled. Claims 1-21, 23, 24, and 26-49 are pending. Claims 1, 13, 21, 24, and 47 are amended, and claims 48 and 49 are added. Claims 1, 13, 21, 24, and 47 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed independent claim 47. By this amendment, each of independent claims 1 and 21 has been amended to set forth a combination of elements not disclosed by the references cited by the Examiner. In addition, each of independent claims 13 and 24 has been amended to include the subject matter of independent claim 47 that the Examiner considers to be allowable. Therefore, independent claims 1, 13, 21, and 24 are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraphs [0070], [0071], [0076], and [0078] of the specification have been voluntarily amended merely to consistently describe “surround indent section 44”, as shown in FIG. 7.

Claim Objections

Independent claim 47 has been amended in order to correct the typographical error pointed out by the Examiner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-7, 13-19, and 36-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §10(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki (U.S. 4,619,476) in view of Kobayashi (U.S. 5,593,330);

claims 12, 21, 23, 24, 26-35, and 41-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki and Kobayashi and further in view of Lin (U.S. 2004/0026949 A1), and Bettin et al. (U.S. 6,533,339); and

claims 8-11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki and Kobayashi and further in view of Lin and Lemmen (U.S. 6,062, 623).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 21

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of independent claims 1 and 21 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a structure of a storage system, including *inter alia*

a dividing wall portion projecting to an upper side and formed throughout an entire periphery of a border edge on the storage indent side of the peripheral indent.

Support for the novel features set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 21 can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 2 and 3.

As can be seen on Kawasaki FIG. 4, Kobayashi Fig. 2, Lin Fig. 1, and Bettin et al. Fig. 1, none of these references teaches or suggests a dividing wall portion projecting to an

upper side and formed throughout an entire periphery of a border edge on the storage indent side of the peripheral indent, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 21.

At least for the reasons above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the references cited by the Examiner, including Kawasaki, Kobayashi, Lin, and Bettin et al., fail to teach or suggest the combination of elements set forth in each of independent claims 13 and 24.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 21 are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claims 13 and 24

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of independent claims 13 and 24 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a structure of a storage system, including *inter alia*

a first dividing wall portion projecting to an upper side and formed throughout an entire periphery of an inner edge section of the indent;

a second dividing wall portion projecting to the upper side, formed outside the first dividing wall portion and inside of the opening and closing mechanism, and

a surround indent section formed between the first dividing wall portion and the second dividing wall portion and indented downwards so as to completely surround the indent.

Support for the above features can be found in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0070]. See also FIGS. 9-12.

In contrast to the present invention as set forth in claims 13 and 24, as can be seen in Kawasaki FIG. 4, Kobayashi Fig. 2, Lin Fig. 1, and Bettin et al. Fig. 1, none of these references teaches or suggests a surround indent portion formed between the first dividing wall portion and the second dividing wall portion.

At least for the reasons above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the references cited by the Examiner, including Kawasaki, Lin, and Bettin et al., fail to teach or suggest the combination of elements set forth in each of independent claims 13 and 24.

Therefore, independent claims 13 and 24 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

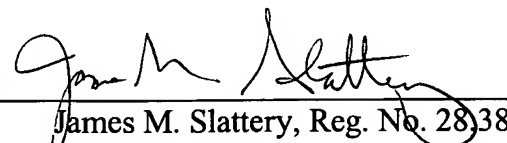
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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